

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants thank Examiner Pryor for indicating that Claims 8 and 13-16 are allowable. Applicants have amended the claims in a non-broadening manner to include Claims 17- 19 which depend from allowed Claim 8 and are drawn to specific embodiments of the claimed invention and are supported in the specification as clearly noted below.

Support for Claim 17 is found at page 5, lines 18 -22, of the specification. Support for Claim 18-20 is found in the Examples at page 5, line 23, to page 6, line 5, of the specification. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the above amendment.

Further, since Applicants have merely added Claims 17-20 which depend from allowed Claim 8, and are drawn to specific embodiments of the claimed invention. These dependent claims do not expand the scope of the claimed invention; and therefore, do not provide grounds for further search. Accordingly, favorable consideration is respectfully requested, and the Amendment should be ENTERED.

In addition, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the references submitted by Applicants under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 on March 17, 2003. The present application has been allowed on March 20, 2003, as indicated by the Notice of Allowance dated the same.

On March 17, 2003, Applicants submitted a Form 1449 under 37 C.F.R. §1.97. However, the Examiner has not provided an initialed and signed copy of the Form 1449. As evidence thereof, Applicants submit herewith copies of a date-stamped filing receipt dated March 17, 2003, demonstrating the timely filing of the enclosed copy of the PTO Form 1449 (1 pp.). Applicants attempted to contact the Examiner. However, the applicants attempts to resolve this issue were unsuccessful.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Office provide Applicants an initialed and signed copy of the Form 1449 filed on March 17, 2003.

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For the reasons given above, the 312 Amendment filed herewith should be
ENTERED.

Respectfully submitted,

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--Claims 17-19 (New)--

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